

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present patent application.

I. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement in the present patent application and has alleged that claims 1-13 and claims 14-18 describe independent and distinct inventions that are at the very least unrelated. In response to the Examiner's comments and to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have cancelled claims 14-18. All issues pertaining to the Restriction Requirement should now be deemed moot.

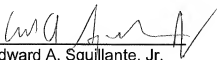
II. Rejection Under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,875,425 B2. In the rejection, the Examiner mentions, in summary, that although the conflicting claims are not identical they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the instant application as well as the referenced patent are claiming skin lightening compositions comprising compounds having the same structure formula I. So that prosecution of the present patent application may be expedited, Applicants herein submit the appropriate terminal disclaimer in order to comply with the suggestions made by the Examiner. In view of this, Applicants request that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn and rendered moot.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and favorable action are earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner has any questions concerning the present patent application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned counsel at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Squillante, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

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